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UNCLAS YEREVAN 001907

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR CACEN
STATE FOR NRC/OIP - JACK RAMSEY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ASEC](#) [EAID](#) [ENRG](#) [KNNP](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [AM](#)
SUBJECT: GOAM REQUESTS USG ASSISTANCE TO IDENTIFY ABANDONED
RADIOLOGICAL SOURCES

REF: A) YEREVAN 634 B) YEREVAN 312 C) YEREVAN 281

1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Please protect accordingly.

SUMMARY

2. (SBU) This is an action request. In a dipnote dated October 21 and received October 26, Deputy Foreign Minister Arman Kirakossian officially requested USG assistance -- both financial and technical -- in locating and securing abandoned radiological sources in Armenia. Recent arrests involving smuggled radiological materials of Armenian origin (reftels) -- including cesium-137 and uranium -- highlight the threat posed by uncontrolled and abandoned Soviet-era nuclear and radiological projects. Post supports Kirakossian's request and seeks Department guidance on alternatives for assisting Armenian nuclear regulators. End Summary.

TEXT OF GOAM DIPLOMATIC NOTE

3. (SBU) The English-language text of the diplomatic note follows. Begin text:

No. 13/12244

H.E. Mr. John M. Evans
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Embassy of the United States of America
Yerevan

Excellency,

I am writing to underline once again, that since 1994 the Department of Energy and the National Regulatory Commission are permanent partners for the Republic of Armenia as a recipient country. Therefore it is my pleasure to sincerely thank the Government of the United States for its continuous assistance and express our hope for future collaboration.

Meanwhile, bearing in mind the importance of the improvement in nowadays the safe and secure protection and preservation of radioactive sources as an important part of antiterrorist measures, Armenia recognizes the significance of possible cooperative efforts undertaken by our two countries. I have to inform you, that we have sites containing radiological materials and a number of additional sites that potentially may have abandoned radiological sources. A search effort with use of appropriate technological devices would be beneficial for determination of orphan sources in case such ones are found.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia is prepared to work with the United States technical counterparts to undertake a project aimed at search efforts to locate abandoned radiological sources. While we are prepared to undertake this project utilizing personnel from the appropriate agencies, funds would be required for equipment and labor, as well as consolidation and security improvements if abandoned sources were found.

This joint work will demonstrate strong cooperation in protecting radioactive materials from potential misuse. I look forward to further discussion of this potential effort and the opportunity to work with the counterpart team from the US on this important initiative. I would also like to stress that collaboration of experts from our two countries on this project will certainly contribute into the joint actions of the international community to combat nuclear terrorism.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/

Arman Kirakossian
Deputy Minister

End text.
EVANS